INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte Lional Application No PCT/US 01/01908

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 E04C2/04 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) EO4C IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Calegory 5 Relevant to claim No. χ WO 00 08271 A (BACCHIELLI) 1.4 - 15.17 February 2000 (2000-02-17) 24-26, 33,69-73 page 3, line 21 -page 5, line 12; figures Υ 2,3, 1,12,13 10 - 12, 27,28, 41,42 48,55, Α 61-63,65 Υ US 5 924 213 A (LEE) 2,3, 10-12. 20 July 1999 (1999-07-20) 27,28, 41,42 column 3, line 37 -column 4, line 61; figures 1.2 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but tater than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 19 March 2001 26/03/2001 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Mysliwetz, W

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